

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended by deleting the word “highly” before “branched.

Claim 5 has also been amended to require the average amine functionality of the amines to be 2.5 (representing approximately equimolar amounts of diamine and triamine), support for which exists at page 6, line 12.

Claims 1-9 are currently pending.

Initially, Applicants note that the claimed processes produce non-crosslinked high-functionality branched polyureas and require (i) reacting one or more carbonates with the one or more amines to yield condensation products (A) comprising one carbamate group and from 1 to 4 amino groups reactive with a carbamate group, or one amine group reactive with a carbamate group and from 1 to 4 carbamate groups, and (ii) reacting intermolecularly the condensation products (A) to form a polycondensation products (P) comprising both carbamate and amino groups, the polycondensation products (P) containing branching but no crosslinking.

As explained in Applicants’ previous response, this process differs significantly from the processes disclosed in Bruchmann, Dvornic, Jackson, Kumar I, and Kumar II, which means that the products from such processes also differ significantly. Significantly, these explained differences did not relate to the amount of branching in the final product of the applied references.

Bruchmann has radical R2 is present in the final product. Dvornic also results in a polyurea having residues introduced by the isocyanate compounds; moreover, these polyureas also do not contain any carbamates: they are either isocyanate- or amine-terminated. Jackson expressly teaches crosslinking his compounds to produce compounds which yield highly insoluble films. Kumar I and Kumar II disclose processes yielding polyureas which do not contain any carbamates -- they are amine-terminated only.

Accordingly, the previously-applied art neither teaches nor suggests the claimed invention relating to branched polyureas having the required structure.

The Office's sole rejection is under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, asserting that claims 1-9 are indefinite and fail to satisfy the written description requirement because they contain the phrase "highly branched". In view of the following comments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended by requiring the polyureas to be branched rather than highly branched. Applicants respectfully submit that (1) the term "branched" is readily understood and well-defined in polymer arts; and (2) the present application discloses the production of branched polyureas. Accordingly, the claims as amended are definite, and the present application contains a sufficient written description of the claimed invention.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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